

# NURSE PRACTITIONER REGULATORY MODEL

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*The Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN) is the regulatory body for licensed practical nurses (LPNs), registered nurses (RNs) and nurse practitioners (NPs) in Nova Scotia. Our mandate is to protect the public by promoting the provision of safe, competent, ethical and compassionate nursing services by our registrants. The term nurse in this document refers to LPNs, RNs and NPs unless otherwise stated.*

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Our practice support tools are developed using current reference material. The source of this material is available upon request.

## Introduction

In 2020, the [Canadian Council of Registered Nurse Regulators \(CCRNRR\)](#) commissioned the Nurse Practitioner Regulation Framework Implementation Plan Project (NPR-FIPP) with a priority that the Nurse Practitioner (NP) entry-level education programs in Canada will prepare NPs for practice in all practice settings and across the client life span with the exception of neonates. This is different from how NPs have been educated and licensed across Canada by client population, including Family/All Ages (FAA), Pediatric, Adult, and Neonatal.

As part of NPR-FIPP, two outcomes emerged:

- The NP Entry Level Competencies were revised and adopted by the Nova Scotia College of Nursing (NSCN) in January 2025.
- As of 2026, all NP applicants educated in Canada (with the exception of Neonatal NPs) will write a new, single entry national NP exam called the Canadian NP Licensure Exam (CNPLE).

The new model for NP regulation will be implemented in Nova Scotia in 2027. The NP Program at Dalhousie University has been revised to reflect the new single entry NP entry-level competencies. Learners starting the Dalhousie NP program in September 2025 (and beyond) will write the CNPLE upon graduation.

Students who started the FAA program at Dalhousie University (either full-time or part-time) before 2025 will write the Canadian Nurse Practitioner Exam (CNPE) upon graduation. There is a transition period to allow graduates in the current FAA program to complete their program. Until this transition is complete NSCN will continue to accept recognized [nurse practitioner licensure exams](#).

### I am an Adult/Pediatric/Neonatal/FAA NP. Do I have to write the new exam to continue my practice?

No, you are not required to write the new exam. You can continue to practice with the population for which you have been educated in and passed the applicable exam. There is no change in your scope of practice.

### I am a FAA NP. Will I be required to complete any additional education?

No, you can continue to practice in your area of practice. As self-regulating professionals, you are accountable to ensure you have the required competencies to practice in the area of expertise.

For further information, please contact an NSCN Practice Consultant at [practice@nscn.ca](mailto:practice@nscn.ca).